

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6853
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0916

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SY LE XF
SUBJ: SYRIAN FORMIN KHADDAM'S COMMENTS ON LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: DAMASCUS 0953

1. WE ARE GENERALLY ENCOURAGED BY TONE OF KHADDAM'S
REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR MURPHY (REFTEL), ALTHOUGH HIS
ACCOUNT OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO FAYYADIYAH INCIDENT DOES
NOT SQUARE WITH OUR INFORMATION AND SOME OF HIS COMMENTS
ARE RATHER OMINOUS. WE ARE NOT QUITE SURE WHAT KHADDAM MEANS
WHEN HE SAYS "LATEST CRISIS HAD ERUPTED AGAINST BACKGROUND
OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOL AND SOME CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS,"
(PARA 3, REFTEL). SARKIS AND BOUTROS HAVE CERTAINLY HAD
THEIR PROBLEMS WITH THE LEBANESE FRONT BUT WE ARE NOT AWARE
OF ANY CRISIS BETWEEN THEM THAT COULD HAVE SPARKED
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FAYYADIYAH AFFAIR. ALSO, REMARK THAT ADF COMMANDER
KHATIB WAS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING UP OF
ROADBLOCK AT FAYYADIYAH IS CONTRARY TO INFO FROM
OTHER SOURCES. KHADDAM'S COMMENT THAT "DISCIPLINE OF
SYRIAN FORCES MIGHT HAVE DETERIORATED" ECHOS SOME
STORIES WE HAVE BEEN HEARING HERE THAT SYRIAN OFFICERS
HAVE HAD SOME TROUBLE IN CONTROLLING THEIR TROOPS. IT

ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THIS MAY BE THE LINE SYRIA QILL TAKE
IF ITS FORCES ARE FURTHER PROVOKED AND IT FEELS THEY
MUST RESPOND.

2. RE PARA 6 REFTTEL, INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE AND JOINT
SECURITY COURT DO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INVESTIGATING
AND PUNISHING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR FAYYADIYAH INCIDENT
AND ALL FUTURE INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE ADF; WHAT WAS
EXCLUDED WERE THE INCIDENTS IN EAST BEIRUT FEBRUARY 8-11,
INVOLVING VARIOUS CIVILIAN MILITIAS AND SYRIAN MILITARY.

3. KHADDAM REMARKS ABOUT THE LEBANESE ARMY (PARA
7 & 8 REFTTEL) SUGGEST THAT SYRIA WILL BE PUSHING HARD FOR
COMPLETE REORGANIZATION OF LAF ONCE THE PRESENT CRISIS
HAS EASED. THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE
LEBANESE ARMY SHOULD ALSO BE ON THE TOP OF SARKIS' LIST
AS SOON AS THE IMMEDIATE THREAT OF SYRIAN RETALIATION
BECAUSE OF THE KILLING OF TWO SYRIAN SOLDIERS IN FURN
ASH-SHUBBAK HAS BEEN CONTAINED. WHETHER HE WILL HAVE
THE STARCH TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
PARKER

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